

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 2-9 and 13-20 are objected to.

Claim 1 is rejected under Shibata. This claim recites a waste ink-collecting unit to collect waste ink that is ejected from the print head onto an area other than the printing paper during the printing operation.

In contrast, Shibata generally relates to a storage system to handle waste ink that is spit during a nozzle clearing routine. Shibata, Abstract. Sheets of print media are fed through a printzone 25 where printing is achieved via printheads 70, 72, 74 and 76. Shibata, col. 4, ln. 13-14 and col. 5, ln. 3-5 and 35-36. A carriage 45 travels between the printzone 25 and a servicing region 48 via a carriage guide rod 44. Shibata, col. 4, ln. 48-53. A service station 80 (relied upon by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed waste ink collecting unit) is within the servicing region 48. However, the service station 80 does not collect waste ink during the printing operation, since the printing operation occurs in the printzone 25.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under Matsumoto. Independent claim 10 recites a print head to eject ink towards a paper and a frame forming a hole to pass the ejected ink not received by the paper. It is noted that the ejected ink is ejected towards the paper.

In contrast, Matsumoto generally relates to a nozzle-clog preventing/ink ejection operation. Matsumoto, Abstract. This nozzle-clog operation is stopped when it is determined that a sheet is about to be printed. Matsumoto, col. 8, ln. 3-11. Thus, ink which passes through holes in the sheet guide 3 is not ejected towards the paper. Instead, the paper is to the side of the ink ejection direction. Matsumoto, FIG. 11.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview

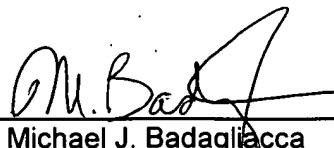
to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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